

INSECT CONTROL REPORT, REGION 4

R.H. RUTLEDGE
OGDEN, UTAH
NOVEMBER 29, 1927

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service
Intermountain District

Ogden, Utah.

November 29, 1927

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Insect Control, D-4

The Forester,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There are no insect infestations in Nevada caused by bark beetles except the *Dendroctonus monticolae* infestation in limber pine near Jarbidge which is now apparently under control and which was placed under control by concentrating the cutting for the Jarbidge mines in insect infested timber. A very interesting development of the Tussock moth in alpine fir in the Jarbidge area has occurred. In accordance with J. C. Evenden's instructions the egg masses are being burned this fall and winter and it is hoped that enough of these will be found and destroyed so that no considerable damage will be done. This moth apparently has killed a large percentage of trees on about 320 acres, being extremely bad on about 30 acres.

Supervisor Mann of the Kaibab Forest reports that the entire yellow pine type has been covered very thoroughly and that he has taken observations with field glasses from all of the lookout points and that he has been unable to find even one tree killed by *Dendroctonus ponderosae* this year.

The Dixie and Powell Forests report no infestation in yellow pine. On the old Powell Division of the Powell an infestation in Engelmann spruce by the Engelmann spruce beetle has been going on for a great many years. This has long since been so bad that there is no thought of attempting any control measures. This certainly will have to run its course and be stopped by natural causes.

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The La Sal reports no infestation. Apparently the Engelmann spruce infestation on the south division which gave us quite a little trouble for a few years has been effectively stopped by cutting for a small sawmill.

On the Fishlake we have a few small patches of Engelmann spruce attacked by the Engelmann spruce beetle but we expect to be able to handle this by cutting by small mills and administrative use.

The Engelmann spruce beetle infestation on the Manti which was reported on previously has been completely cleaned up by requiring the millmen to cut only infested trees.

The Wasatch reports no beetles.

We have some spruce on the Uinta attacked by the Engelmann spruce beetle which we think we can handle by sales and administrative use.

I am enclosing a copy of Supervisor Nord's report on the control work done on the Ashley last spring. As near a 100% clean-up as was possible under the conditions was gotten on the Ashley job last spring. In spite of this 34 additional newly infested trees were found and treated in October of this year by the ranger and his guard. Doubtless a few additional trees will show up next spring on National Forest and Indian Department lands and both departments are planning on an additional complete clean-up. On the north end of the Ashley Forest the local officers have done exceptionally good work in getting most of the infested yellow pine cut and treated by sales and administrative use. They have also been working with ranger labor in cleaning up patches of infested yellow pine which they could not possibly get rid of under administrative use on account of its inaccessibility. In order to clean up the remainder of about 200 yellow pine infested trees and about 100 lodgepole pine infested trees on the northeast corner of the Ashley, the Supervisor asks for an allotment of insect control funds of \$150 to be used for the hire of a team and a few days of single hand labor to go with contributed time by the Supervisor and rangers in direct control work. I do not know of any place where we will come nearer getting our money's worth than allotting \$150 insect control money to the Ashley for direct control work next spring.

The Teton and Wyoming Forests report no insect infestations.

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The Caribou Forest still has scattering patches of Douglas fir infestation which they expect to handle by sales and administrative use.

On the Cache the small Douglas fir infestation which we caught last year and that we completely controlled by sales, has again broken out but we think that this can be handled by sales and administrative use. The mountain pine beetle infestation in lodgepole pine which the Forest has gotten excellent action on by sales and administrative use has been completely controlled on the area worked, namely, the head of Emigration and Williams Creek Canyons. However, six or eight miles farther to the north another infestation of the same character is getting well started but the local force is getting good action under administrative use for local farm timbers and the sales for the Oregon Short Line market. It doubtless will not be possible to clean this up completely before the next flight of the beetles, but we expect to have sufficient cutting going on so that the control will be complete before the 1929 beetle flight. The area which will have to be worked over approximates about a township and the infested trees occur in groups of varying size. To the south of the Emigration and Williams Creek Canyon infestation there are approximately 100 infested trees. These are in the head of Paris Canyon and are inaccessible at the present time. It does not seem to be any possibility of getting action on this little bunch of infested trees by sales or administrative use. We really should have \$150 to \$200 insect control money to get action on this bunch of infested trees. The local officers on the Cache are going right after their insect control problem and deserve a lot of credit for their work.

The Lemhi reports a mountain pine beetle infestation in lodgepole on the North Fork of Lost River and on Wildhorse Creek. This area is just across the divide from the Sawtooth Forest. This is doubtless part of the big infestation to the north and west which will be described later in this report.

On the Minidoka the small amount of work done two years ago, which was merely supplemental to sale and administrative use cuttings has controlled the mountain pine beetle infestation in lodgepole pine. Although small groups of infested trees are still found, these are being either cut under sale or treated by the local force. The Douglas fir beetle is still giving a little trouble but in a few less numbers than last year. It may be that a small allotment another year

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will be necessary to protect some very excellent small stands of Douglas fir of high value for local use, but we think we are safe in continuing on a sale basis in this for 1928.

The Sawtooth reports no insect epidemics. We are very much surprised at this in this office because we expected that the big lodgepole infestation, which will be described later in this report, had spread to the Sawtooth. It is possible that the local officers have not recognized this.

On the Targhee the mountain pine beetle is working in noticeable numbers in two localities. First, on the west side of Teton Basin on the old Palisade division, the other at the head of Pleasant Valley Creek west of the main line of the Oregon Short Line Railroad between Idaho Falls and Butte. The infestation on the west side of Teton Basin is being handled and we think will be completely controlled by the sale of lodgepole pine for ties and sawtimber for one or two little mills. The sawtimber is being issued under free administrative use, since the infested patches are scattered and the haul is too long to show any positive stumpage. The tie timber is bringing 10 cents per tie. On account of being well stocked up with ties at the Pocatello treating plant, the Oregon Short Line purchasing agent refused to make any more tie contracts with the small operators in the Teton Basin. We, however, took the matter up with him and pointed out the seriousness of leaving insect infested trees and he was very glad to cooperate with us and has agreed to purchase all ties made from infested areas on our certification that the ties are being cut from such areas. It is expected that our action in getting these infested trees cut will prevent the spread of the beetle to the tie stands on the east side of Teton Basin which contain something like five million ties and also prevent the spread to the Jackson's Hole and Gray's River lodgepole pine. The infestation in the head of Pleasant Valley Creek is a more serious proposition. This is in advance of the Big Hole and Bitterroot infestation and we believe it should be given very careful attention and control measures put into effect in the spring of 1928. There is no local market for this material and the trees infested are smaller than tie size, mostly fence pole and houselog size. The extent and seriousness of the infestation in Pleasant Valley is not known in this office, but from the description given by the Supervisor it is believed that about \$700 insect control money

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should be set aside for use on this project in the spring of 1928. This is particularly important on account of the relation it bears to the Big Hole infestation in District 1 and the control measures in effect there, which as I understand it, are for the particular purpose of cutting off the advance of the infestation.

On the Boise, Payette, Idaho, Challis, and Salmon Forests the mountain pine beetle infestation in lodgepole pine which has been mentioned in our annual reports for the past three or four years, is increasing rapidly each year. It was so bad three or four years ago that it is not practicable to do any direct control work. It was hoped, of course, that it would by this time have run its course and gone back to normal but it has not done this. It is immensely worse this year than ever before. Some of the Supervisors say that from one-third to one-half of the larger sized lodgepole trees on the area affected have all been killed. We had J. C. Evenden of the Bureau of Entomology over a part of the area on the Salmon and Challis Forests last summer and he was amazed at the increase since he saw it about three years ago. As nearly as we could tell the killing of 1927 and 1928 will be even greater than was in 1926 and 1927. A very disturbing thing about this infestation is that the mountain sides on Wimpey and Agency Creeks on the Salmon are turning red this year and this is just over the divide from the Beaverhead Forest and considerably in advance (south and east) of the work being done on the Beaverhead project in District 1. This point was called to Mr. Evenden's attention at the time he was there. In the vicinity of this heavy lodgepole infestation small groups of western yellow pine are being attacked by the mountain pine beetle. Mr. Evenden is of the opinion that this has spread from the lodgepole and that in all probability this will die down with the decline or passing on of the lodgepole epidemic.

On the Idaho the lodgepole infestation is all east of the South Fork of the Salmon River and there does not seem to be any infestation in the lodgepole on the Weiser.

On the Boise, Payette and Idaho Forests scattering infestations of the western pine beetle (*Dendroctonus brevicornis*) occur. These seem to be the heaviest in and adjacent to the areas hit so hard a few years ago by the pine butterfly. As nearly as can be ascertained, the damage by the western pine

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beetle there is less this year than it was last year and the year before, possibly due to the recovery in vitality of the western yellow pine since the pine butterfly has ceased to work.

On the Salmon some insect control work was done in the spring of 1927 along the Salmon-Montana road where brevicomis in yellow pine and monticolae in the lodgepole was apparently attracted by the right-of-way clearing. A total of \$1400 was spent, \$450 of which was contributed by the Bureau of Public Roads, \$750 by the contractors and \$200 from our GE funds. Most of this work consisted in burning up piles of logs cut in the clearing of the right-of-way which were infested with beetles and some standing trees were also felled and burned.

The Weiser seems to be pretty free of Dendroctonus, although on one cut-over area a number of trees which had been lightning struck or injured in logging, were found to be infested with Ips and with the round-headed and flat-headed borers.

The following allotment of funds is urgently requested for insect control work in the spring of 1928:

\$150	for the	Ashley
\$150	"	" Cache
\$700	"	" Targhee

We are not at all sure what the Targhee job will amount to yet but Assistant District Forester Morse will plan on getting over the area as early in the spring as weather conditions will permit, make a careful study of the situation with particular relation to the work which is being done in District 1 in which he has kept in pretty close contact and which he discussed very fully with Evenden when he made the Salmon and Challis trip last summer. It is our idea that as much as possible of the work which should be done on the Targhee will be accomplished by contributed time and that only such amount of insect control money as is absolutely necessary will be requested for the work there. If it develops that we can get along with less than \$700 it will be immediately turned back. If, on the other hand, a little more seems necessary to handle the work it will be requested.

The spruce budworm is killing a lot of alpine fir, white fir and in places considerable Douglas fir practically

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throughout the entire District except in the southern portion of the District. The spruce budworm killing and also the mountain pine beetle killing in lodgepole is seriously increasing the fire hazard in the District.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) R. H. KUTLEDGE,

District Forester

enclosure